

Message Text

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ACTION SY-05

INFO OCT-01 EA-07 ISO-00 SYE-00 OC-06 CCO-00 FBO-02
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FM AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 778

INFO AMCONSUL SYDNEY

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

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DEPT FOR A/SY/OPS/FO AND EA/EX, HONG KONG FOR RSS

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ASEC, ACOM, ABLDG

SUBJECT: SECURITY RECOMMENDATION CONCERNING PROPOSED NEW OFFICE SITE
OF CONSULATE GENERAL SYDNEY

1. RSO, ACCOMPANIED BY SEABEE STRINGFIELD, VISITED SYDNEY
ON JUNE 29 AND 30 TO CONSULT WITH CONGEN REGARDING SELECTION
OF NEW OFFICE SPACE. TOGETHER WITH SYDNEY ADMINISTRATIVE
OFFICER, THEY LOOKED AT THE TWO SITES MENTIONED REFTEL: THE
TOWN HALL HOUSE (HALF OF THE 21ST FLOOR AND 22ND AND 23RD
FLOORS) AND THE T AND G BUILDING (36TH AND 37TH FLOORS). BOTH
SITES ARE LOCATED IN THE BUSINESS DISTRICT OF SYDNEY AND ARE
NEW BUILDINGS WITH UP-TO-DATE INTERNAL SECURITY AND FIRE
CONTROL SYSTEMS. POLICE AND FIRE RESPONSE TO BOTH LOCATIONS
WOULD BE WITHIN THE MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS, I.E., LESS THAN
FIVE MINUTES.

2. FROM A SECURITY POINT OF VIEW, RSO RECOMMENDS RELOCATION
TO TOWN HALL HOUSE SITE BECAUSE CONSULATE GENERAL WOULD
OCCUPY TOP TWO AND A HALF FLOORS OF BUILDING WITH NO
OFFICE SPACE ON TOP OF SITE. THIS WOULD PROVIDE EXCELLENT
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LOCATION FOR C AND R VAULT ON 23RD FLOOR WITH THE CAPABILITY
OF LOCATING EMERGENCY GENERATOR AND COMMUNICATIONS
ANTENNAS ON ROOF. T AND G BUILDING DOES NOT OFFER AS MUCH
C AND R INTEGRITY BECAUSE UNCONTROLLED OFFICES AND
CONFERENCE ROOMS WOULD BE LOCATED ON 38TH (TOP) FLOOR.
CONGEN CONTINUES TO PREFER T AND G BUILDING.

3. SEABEE, IN DISCUSSION WITH SITE ENGINEER AT TOWN HALL HOUSE, BELIEVES THAT C AND R VAULT, COMPOSED OF 1/4" STEEL PLATE, COULD BE ACCOMMODATED ON THE 23RD FLOOR WITHOUT POSING ANY FLOOR LOADING PROBLEMS.

4. ONCE SITE IS SELECTED AND MATERIALS ARE ON HAND, ONE SEABEE WOULD BE REQUIRED FOR CONSEC SURVEILLANCE FOR CONSTRUCTION OF VAULT. ARRANGEMENTS WOULD ALSO HAVE TO BE MADE TO PROVIDE AFTER-HOURS U.S. PERSONNEL CONTROL OF SITE UNTIL JOB IS COMPLETED.

5. CONGEN AND SECURITY PERSONNEL INTEND TO RECOVER ALL SECURITY MATERIALS USED AT PRESENT CONGEN AND HOPE TO UTILIZE MOST OF THESE MATERIALS IN ADDITION TO OTHERS (LEXGARD) AT NEW SITE.

6. CONGEN IS PREPARING PROPOSED OFFICE SPACE ALLOCATIONS ON FLOOR PLANS. ONCE THESE PLANS HAVE BEEN RECEIVED BY THE EMBASSY, RSO WILL FORWARD DETAILED MEMO TO DEPARTMENT WITH SECURITY RECOMMENDATIONS.

7. EMBASSY RECOMMENDS OC AND FBO REPRESENTATIVES WITH AUTHORITY TO MAKE PERTINENT DECISIONS SURVEY SITE WITH RSO AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. WE NEED TO ENTER SERIOUS NEGOTIATIONS WITHOUT DELAY. PLEASE ADVISE. ALSTON

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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
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